

DUPLEX TRUCK DOES "STUNTS" IN TESTS

Demonstrations Are Given With It Before Committee of Marine Corps Officers.

By WILLIAM P. ROSE.

A two-ton Duplex truck has been doing "stunts" this week before a committee of officers from the marine corps composed of Col. E. K. Cole, Major R. H. Dunlap, Major H. L. Roosevelt, and Capt. R. O. Underwood.

The truck is equipped with a dark blue body, and is a four wheel drive, four wheel steer and four wheel brake, manufactured by the Duplex Power Car Company, of Charlotte, Mich. This company is represented in Washington and before the Government by F. R. Parks, located in the Munsey Building.

The Duplex Power Car Company was originally organized to build a four wheel motor truck, and for six years it has specialized in this type, in which the axle shafts driving spur pinions mesh with internal ring gears enclosed in grubs on the rear wheels. The fundamental principle that prompted the building of the first truck was primarily to have a small, powerful plant in the rear of the vehicle, to minimize the expense of tires by equal wear upon all four.

Loss of Power Reduced.

In experiments on level surfaces, tractive effort ought to be equal, whether by two or four wheels, but when traction is lessened by wet pavements, mud, snow, sand, or loose soil, with but one or two wheels driving, half the useful power available is lost. With four wheels driving the loss of power can be greatly reduced, because with four points of contact with the highway there is less probability of reduction of traction. In experimental work and service the utility of the Duplex drive was found to be so superior to any other system that tests of extreme character were made in conditions where the practical use of motor vehicles would seem to be impossible. Possibly it was this claim on the part of the Duplex Company that caused the Marine Corps to send the truck through the racking tests of the past few days.

Many Witnesses.

The first demonstration of power happened in lower Potomac Park, just below the Southern Railway bridge in the field on the left of the road. Besides the representatives of the Duplex Company, F. R. Parks and Chief Engineer H. M. Leonard, and the Marine Corps Board, about a hundred Washington automobile men witnessed the test.

The surface of the field here is nothing but a shell about six inches thick, which is undermined by bottomless soft mud and water. The truck was loaded with about two tons, including the weight of the cumbersome machinery with which the chassis was equipped because of specifications, and the wheels were shod with four-inch solid Firestone tires.

Naturally, the truck had hardly gotten into the field before all four wheels went nearly to the hub with the wheels hopelessly without traction. But when the load was taken out of the body and the forward rims of the rear wheels given slight traction by shoveling away the earth above the hubs, the truck came out easily under its own power.

Field Running Demonstrated.

Later in the day tests were conducted at Fort Myer, when the truck went through a ditch less than five feet wide and nearly four feet deep carrying impediments of the artillery corps. Field running with the artillery, which involved hauling, was also demonstrated. On Friday an endurance run was made to Manassas, under the supervision of the marine corps. All the tests were generally satisfactory to Mr. Parks.

A Jeffrey "quad" was present at all of the tests under the supervision of Captain Cranston, of the Combs-Howard Company. Its performances were highly creditable, but to be quite accurate it must be reported that the Jeffrey was equipped with wider Swinchart cellular tires and loaded more professionally.

Automobile Ice Racing Proves Great Success

Automobile ice racing on Lake Superior, a novelty in winter sport, arranged by Duluth motor car dealers, as the closing event of their first automobile show, held recently, proved a great drawing card.

At least 10,000 spectators saw an Overland roadster win the feature event, an eight-mile race. The four-mile oval was lined with spectators, while the show was also literally dotted with people.

The cars were equipped with tire chains to enable them to hold the track on the turns, where the slippery ice made speed difficult. The Overland covered the two laps in 8 minutes 23 seconds, remarkably fast time considering the difficulties of the novel event. The second car finished 1 minute 11 seconds later, leading the third by a full minute. The race, which was virtually the first ever attempted on Lake Superior, proved such a popular form of sport that it has been decided to give an ice racing program once a month next winter.

With the support of the Duluth business men, the dealers of the city hope to offer prizes annually to induce many of the world-known drivers to enter. In this way they expect to establish the city as a center for winter sports.

ARGO

LIGHT DELIVERY

\$365

Capacity 400 Lbs.

Deliver your goods cheaper than with a horse.

A real automobile.

SMITH MOTOR SALES CO.

1823 14th St. N. W. N. 5461

Automobile Notes

The refiners of Vedol have prepared a book of information on the lubrication of internal combustion motors. This book tells the fundamental principles of lubrication—just why oil is used, and just why certain kinds fit certain conditions. A copy of this book may be obtained from Miller Bros., Ford agency.

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, of 1016 Fourteenth street, has arranged a beautiful Easter window in which actual automobile tires are used.

The Maxwell Motor Company, represented by H. B. Leary, Jr., is running a demonstration in a window on lower Fourteenth street, between F and G streets, that is interesting to every car owner. A motor which has been in actual use for some time in a Washington car is shown down every morning and assembled every afternoon.

Miss Mary Pickford, the motion-picture star, signed two important contracts recently. One gave her \$2,000 per week for every week in 1915 whether she works or not, and the other gave her a Maxwell cabriolet.

Speaking of stars, Francis X. Bushman has just purchased a new Marmon car, painted the color of the amethyst, his favorite stone. They say he has thousands of amethysts. The car will be fitted with many ideas peculiar to the famous star. He expects it to meet all of his needs in a motor car from pleasure riding along the boulevards to his most exciting "stunt."

WAR TO CAUSE MANY MOTOR VACATIONS

Mars has motorized the gentle art of taking vacations.

Hugh Chalmers, president of the Chalmers Motor Company, of Detroit, declares that his mail bags are jammed with letters from car owners who assert that instead of taking their annual trips to Europe this year, they are going to have a look at America from the tarmac of their touring cars.

The ignorance of America on the part of some of these prospective tourists, observed the Detroit motor magnate with a chuckle, "is something pathetic. Many of them look forward to prowling about among American motor trails back of the steering wheel with all the naivete and artlessness of children about to cross the threshold of some fairy land."

"They will find their homespun vacationing on the great American playground all and more than they are looking forward to. Judging from the floods of mail I am receiving, not only most of those who usually go abroad for summer touring, but many of those who usually spend their vacations at inland summer resorts or on the seashore, are planning to go cross-country motoring instead this year."

"The democratizing influence of the motorized vacation," continued the Chalmers head, "will prove great. It is one thing to whirl across the continent in the seclusion of a Pullman. It is another thing to see the big things in your car, pausing to dicker for grub, gasoline, or a lodging for the night at a farm house, ranch house, or some crossroads inn. Every motorist who crosses the continent in his car for a visit to the exhibitions on the Pacific Coast will return home an incomparably better American for having undertaken the jaunt. Democracy is a matter of getting acquainted."

As in most matters, Mr. Chalmers is right in this idea of summer vacationing. In fact, at least one concern is already making plans to run automobile tours across the continent to the exhibitions, which will give those who are not owners the opportunity of which Mr. Chalmers speaks.

TIRES RUN 6,200 MILES UNINJURED

Remarkable Record of Mileage Demonstrated on Cadillac Eight-Passenger Car.

Tire manufacturers' theory that, among other things, continuous pulling power from the motor, and ability to start a car without a jerk, contribute to longer tire wear, seems to have been proved by a Cadillac Eight-Passenger demonstrator in Los Angeles, Cal.

The fact that this car has been run 6,200 miles on the same set of tires, without a single change, puncture, or blowout, is regarded by the Washington tire men as one of the greatest demonstrations of many seasons. The tires show but little evidence of their long service, and if their appearance is to be relied upon they are good for several thousand miles over and above the 6,200 miles of service they have already contributed.

This showing is remarkable considering that this Cadillac is a seven-passenger model, and has been used almost exclusively for demonstrating. At most without exception, it has carried seven passengers on the demonstrating trips, and it has been driven into the hills to show its action on heavy grades. Heavily loaded, it has also been driven at high speed, and the runs it has made have been far from easy, so far as the tires are concerned. It has also made one very fast round trip between Los Angeles and San Diego.

Spark Plugs

Bethlehem 5 Point Plugs

Something unique and new in spark plugs—no more trouble—try a set at our expense.

A plug for the big cars unsurpassed for efficiency and guaranteed for the life of your car.

We are demonstrating these plugs at our 14th street store. If you have spark plug trouble just drop in to see how these plugs do the work—and be forever satisfied.

Don't take our word—come in and see.

MILLER BROS. AUTO AND SUPPLY HOUSE

1105 14th St. N. W.

Service Dept.

MOTOR CAR OWNERS PLAN ORGANIZATION

Many Applications for New Body Received at Headquarters of New Club.

Following the announcement last Saturday that a movement is on foot to form an automobile club in the District, the American Automobile Association has received a large number of applications at its office in the Riggs building.

The benefits of such a club would be many. For one thing, it would be possible to follow the lead of the Hoosier Motor Club of Indianapolis which is promoting Sunday trips to be known as "History Hunts Through Hoosierland." These trips originated with John G. Monahan, chairman of the runs and tours committee and general manager of the Marlow Motor Company.

The terminus of each run will be one of the many historic spots in which Indiana abounds. The first tour is scheduled for April 18 when the motorists will drive to Lafayette and visit the Tippecanoe battlefield, the scene of a battle between Tecumseh's braves and the forces of Gen. William Henry Harrison in 1811.

Other battlefields famous in Indiana's frontier history will be visited during the summer. The motorists also will drive to Lincoln City, the burial place of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of the great emancipator; to Vincennes, the original site of the government, and to Fountain City, where stands the old brick homestead which sheltered Eliza after she fled across the ice-choked Ohio river with her child to escape the slave master, and the former residence of the Rev. Levi Coffin, president of the imaginary underground railroad of the slavery days.

Saxon Company Starts Shipment of New Cars

This week witnessed the shipping of the first of the Saxon "Sixes" from the factory of the Saxon Motor Company in Detroit.

The builders of this new "Six" have started quantity production of this popular model and expect to have demonstrators in the hands of every dealer as fast as production will permit.

With the shipping of the first models, announcement is made that the production plans of the Saxon Company call for an output of 1,500 cars in April.

According to the Saxon officials spring buying has opened up earlier this year than usual.

Although the new Saxon factory gives 500 per cent greater facilities than last year, this plant is working to capacity every day in the endeavor to take care of orders on hand.

The Saxon output will be 3,000 cars this year and at present a large daily shipping average is being maintained. The new roadster model is sharing popularity with the six-cylinder type.

OUCH! LUMBAGO! RUB PAINS FROM SORE, LAME BACK

Rub Backache away with small trial bottle of old "St. Jacob's Oil."

Back hurt you? Can't straighten up without feeling sudden pains, sharp aches and twinges? Now, listen! That's lumbago, sciatica, or maybe from a strain, and you'll get relief the moment you rub your back with soothing, penetrating "St. Jacob's Oil." Nothing else takes out soreness, lameness, and stiffness so quickly. You simply rub it on your back and out comes the pain. It is harmless and doesn't burn the skin.

Limb up! Don't suffer! Get a small trial bottle of old, honest "St. Jacob's Oil" from any drug store, and after using it just once, you'll forget that you ever had backache, lumbago, or sciatica, because your back will never hurt or cause any more misery. It never disappoints, and has been recommended for sixty years.—Advt.

TRUCK TIRE SALES GROW AMAZINGLY

Local Dealers Awaken to Possibilities of Business, Declare Manufacturer.

"Tire dealers everywhere are now wide awake to the substantial possibilities that lie in the handling of truck tires," says C. W. Martin, manager of the truck tire department of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company.

"The truck has arrived, just as the pleasure type automobile arrived a few years ago, and the dealers everywhere are equipping to give truck accessories a distribution worthy of the industry."

"Up to a year ago, truck tires were regarded by the average dealer as a 'necessary evil,' something that concerned him only remotely. It was not readily apparent to him that truck use was becoming so wide spread that sold tires would soon become an important and busy line for dealers."

"Within the year the whole situation has changed. We find it comparatively easy to close deals with dealers—and the whole truck industry is benefited by the readiness with which tires can now be obtained by users."

"In small towns, in the past, truck users have had to buy tires 'out of town.' This meant delays. By buying big tires at home the truck owner gets service, eliminates delays, and patronizes a home industry."

"We are greatly pleased with the progress thus far, and predict that soon truck tires will be sold as universally by dealers as are pneumatics at the present time."

Carelessness Blamed For Ignition Trouble

F. E. Watts, chief engineer of the Hupp Motor Car Company, is authority for the statement that 90 per cent of the battery and ignition trouble experienced by motorists is due to carelessness and negligence on the part of owners.

Mr. Watts believes that owners have not been properly educated on battery maintenance. Much of this, he says, is due chiefly to the fault of the owner himself, because he has given little or no attention to battery instructions. "The trouble is," said Mr. Watts, "that owners do not pay enough attention to care and operation of batteries. This is due to the fact that battery education has been sadly neglected by motorists. Most people look upon the storage battery as a 'mystery box' and believe the less attention it is given the better."

The Hupp special service department has had special instructions printed for the care and maintenance of batteries. One caution that owners are given is to keep the battery fully charged. A second caution is against allowing the water in the cells to drop below a certain definite level.

Forty-One Ford Cars Are Sold Here This Week

Miller Bros. automobile and supply house report the sale of Ford cars during the past week as follows:

Touring cars to: H. S. Morton, J. T. Jones, H. M. Perry, C. L. Smith, C. L. Johnson, William L. Rhoads, J. L. Price, E. B. Huffman, Catherine Lucy Howe, Boyce Garage, three, J. H. Carter, Charles E. Downey, Robert Dick, James Sprucebank, Ole Kael, Dr. J. Brooks, Dr. H. Lewis, F. P. Shea, Morgan Bros., Mrs. E. F. Andrews, J. F. Donohue & Sons, Mrs. E. N. Reay, E. E. Browne, Richard W. Barker, John D. Lourim, L. W. Trenis, Elizabeth Bloom, Mrs. A. S. Smith, John D. Green.

Runabout to: Shellhorn. Delivery wagons to: Hecht & Co., U. S. Marine Corps, 2, McReynolds & Sons, Edward J. Newcomb, Louis Boeckstyns, Harry Borman, quartermaster's department, Claire J. Stevens.

AJAX TIRE CONTEST DRAWING TO CLOSE

Prizes to Be Awarded for Chauffeurs With Best Records March 31.

The second annual mileage contest of the Ajax-Grieb Rubber Company comes to an end on March 31, at which time the hundreds of cards turned in by competitors will be placed in the hands of the three judges who will select the winners of \$5,000 in prizes.

Prizes are awarded for the greatest mileage made with a single Ajax tire by any employed chauffeur between April 1, 1914 and March 31, 1915. Competitors are allowed to enter any number of tires used and the mileage performances are attested by the owner whose car the chauffeur drives.

The winning total last year was 16,782 miles and was followed by totals of 13,900 and 13,761 miles. This year, from all indications, there will be a great many high averages in the winning totals and it is likely that the first thirty will show considerably better than 11,000 miles on the average.

The value of such tests to the owner of the automobile is not in showing what the tire may do under exceptional conditions, but to prove that careful management and handling of a car in all conditions of daily service will produce mileage results far in excess of even the 5,000 miles which is guaranteed in writing to all users of Ajax tires.

A CHILD DOESN'T LAUGH AND PLAY IF CONSTIPATED

If peevish, feverish and sick, give "California Syrup of Figs."

Mother! Your child isn't naturally cross and peevish. See if tongue is coated; this is a sure sign its little stomach, liver and bowels need a cleansing at once.

When listless, pale, feverish, full of cold, breath bad, throat sore, doesn't eat, sleep or act naturally, has stomach-ache, diarrhoea, remember, a gentle liver and bowel cleansing should always be the first treatment given.

Nothing equals "California Syrup of Figs" for children's ills; give a teaspoonful, and in a few hours all the foul waste, sour bile and fermenting food which is clogged in the bowels passes out of the system, and you have a well and playful child again. All children love this harmless, delicious "fruit laxative," and it never fails to effect a good "inside" cleansing. Directions for babies, children of all ages and grown-ups are plainly on the bottle.

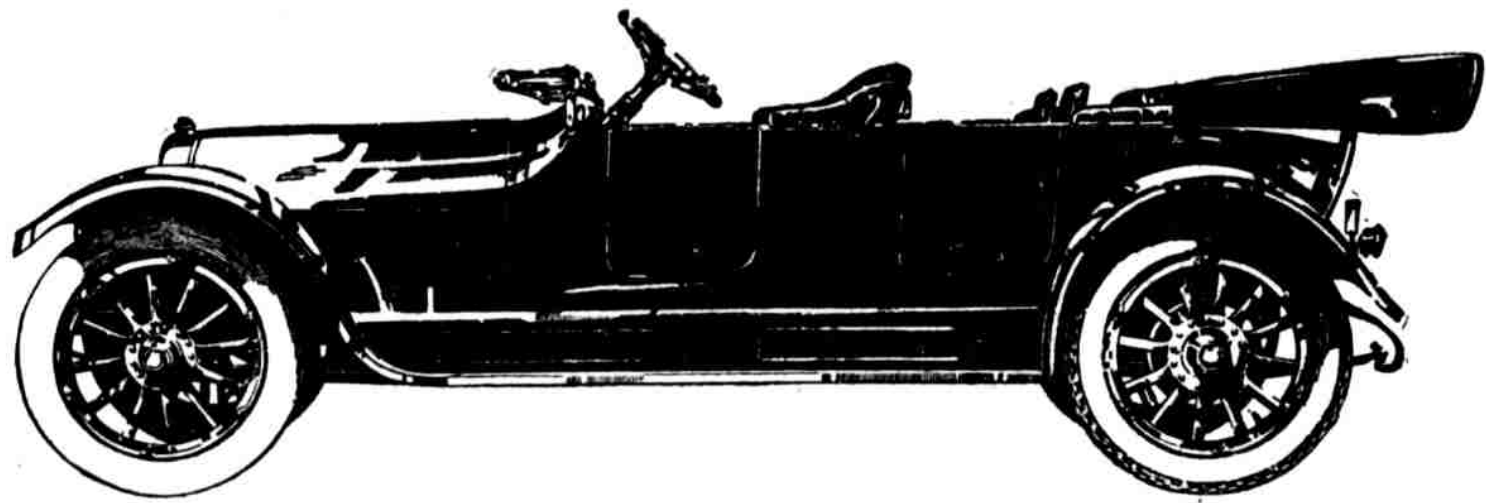
Keep it handy in your home. A little given today saves a sick child tomorrow, but get the genuine. Ask your druggist for a 50-cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," then look and see that it is made by the "California Fig Syrup Company."—Advt.

Six

Overland

\$1475

f. o. b. Toledo



Indisputable Excess Value

The wheel base of the Overland Six is 125 inches.

The wheel base of other Sixes, at a similar price, is shorter.

The six cylinder motor is of the latest en-bloc design. It is conservatively rated at 45 horsepower.

The motor of other Sixes, at a similar price, is not as powerful, nor as flexible, nor as up-to-date.

The Overland has high tension magneto ignition.

Most other Sixes have not.

The tires are 35" x 4 1/2" all around with non-skids in the rear.

The tires of other Sixes, at a similar price, are smaller.

Most other Sixes do not have non-skids on the rear.

Such is the economical result of Overland quantity production.

We give more car for less money simply because we produce more cars than any other manufacturer of Sixes in the world.

Buy an Overland Six and save money.

Deliveries can be made immediately.

Order yours now.

Harper-Overland Co., Distributors

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"Made in U. S. A."

The Willys-Overland Company, Toledo, Ohio

